

**December 15, 2020**

**To: Santa Rosa City Council**

**Fr: Teri Shore, Advocacy Director**

**Re: Study Session December 15, 2020 - Item 3.2 WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY PROJECTS: PROPOSED USES OF PG&E SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Greenbelt Alliance appreciates the comprehensive recommendations from city staff to the City Council on how to allocate PG&E settlement funds for wildfire preparedness, mitigation and resiliency projects.

As you move forward, Greenbelt Alliance would like you to consider adding and elevating the importance of greenbelts for wildfire preparedness, mitigation and resiliency into the mix. Natural and manmade greenbelts including open space, preserves, parks, greenways, trails and bike paths are critical tools for increasing wildfire resiliency that have multiple benefits to the community.

We saw during the Glass Fire the importance of Trione-Annadel State Park where firefighting crews were “able to use existing trails and natural topography to enforce fire lines.” See

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/news/fire-crews-using-control-burns-to-combat-glass-fire-in-trione-annadel-state/>

Some of the PG&E settlement money designated for Implementation of Wildland Resiliency and Response Strategic Plan (\$2,750,000) and Implementation of a comprehensive Vegetation Management Program (\$5,250,000) could be used to analyze the benefits of and ultimately protect and enhance the acreage of greenbelts in and around the City of Santa Rosa for wildfire resiliency.

Greenbelt Alliance is now investigating and documenting the critical role of greenbelts in wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery – all together being wildfire resiliency. Protected greenbelts are growing in importance as a wildfire resiliency tool with multiple benefits. While greenbelts and wildfire benefits are mentioned anecdotally or as a footnote in other research no one yet has compiled the increasing evidence of the importance of greenbelts to wildfire resiliency. Such research is particularly relevant now after the loss of life and home to wildfire devastation over the past few years in the greater Bay Area.

The City of Santa Rosa could be a good case study in our research on greenbelts and wildfires. Our goal is to produce findings and policy recommendations to be published as a mobilization strategy for policies and actions that can be taken by decision makers, advocates, and the public to increase the ability of our Bay Area lands and communities to respond and recover from wildfire and other climate-change disasters.

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**From:** [Shirley Chealhome](#)  
**To:** [\\_CityCouncilListPublic](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PGE Funds  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:07:43 AM

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Overwhelming information yesterday from the Fire Dept. and others. As someone who lost my house in the Tubbs Fire I would love to see all those recommendations in place!

However after listening to the last 2 council meeting sessions some things made sense.

1. Mayor Rogers suggestion of firebreaks/hiking trails.
2. New fire station at Fountaingrove and Stagecoach. (This is across the street from where we frequently see goats successfully clearing the brush.)
3. Matching the Sonoma County's 10 million to create a building loan fund.
4. Further placing 10 million towards low income housing, through community housing dept.
5. Replenishing the money spent by the city on fire relief would perhaps free up money to support the Roseland Library and services for those struggling on the street.

Thanks for all your efforts on these complicated issues.  
Congratulations to our new Mayor and Council Members. May you all continue to work as a strong team.

With hope for 2021.  
Shirley Cheal

Sent from my iPad...